Amendment to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** Method of reinforcing against seismic or paraseismic stresses a metal tank, said tank including a base surface capable of lying on the ground, an external surface with a height, and an axis, said ~~container against seismic or paraseismic stresses, in which the~~ metal ~~container is~~ tank surrounded over at least part of its height with carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ and in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal tank ~~container~~, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to [[an]] the axis of the metal tank ~~container~~, said fabric including carbon ~~fibers~~ fibres, said carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to [[an]] the axis of the metal tank ~~container~~.

2. **(Withdrawn)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.

3. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the metal tank ~~container~~ is at least partly filled and in which the metal tank ~~container~~ is surrounded with a carbon fibre fabric without the metal tank ~~container~~ being emptied.

4. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ so as to bypass projecting regions on the said part of the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~.

5. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ in several superposed layers.

6. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to Claim 5, in which the number of superposed layers of the carbon fibre fabric varies with the height along the metal tank ~~container~~.

7. **(Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 5, in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands and in which the superposed layers are offset with another by half the width of a band.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A [[M]]metal ~~container~~ tank with a base, an axis extending a height from the base and an external surface, said tank reinforced against seismic or paraseismic stresses, surrounded over at least part of its height with carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~, the carbon fibre fabric being placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal tank ~~container~~, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to [[an]] the axis of the metal tank ~~container~~, said fabric including carbon fibers, said carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal tank ~~container~~.

9. **(Withdrawn)** Metal container according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.

10. **(Currently Amended)** Metal tank ~~container~~ according to Claim 8, at least partly filled, the metal tank ~~container~~ being surrounded with a carbon fibre fabric without being emptied.

11. **(Currently Amended)** Metal tank ~~container~~ according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ so as to bypass projecting regions on the said part of the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~.

12. **(Currently Amended)** Metal tank ~~container~~ according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ in several superposed layers.

13. **(Currently Amended)** Metal tank ~~container~~ according to Claim 12, in which the number of superposed layers of the carbon fibre fabric varies with the height along the metal tank ~~container~~.

14. **(Currently Amended)** Metal tank ~~container~~ according to Claim 12, in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands and in which the superposed layers are offset with respect to one another by half the width of a band.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method of reinforcing a generally cylindrical metal tank ~~container~~, having an axis extending for a height upwardly from a base and an external surface, against seismic or paraseismic stresses, comprising the steps of: passively surrounding at least part of its axial height with carbon fibre fabric over the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~ by carbon fibre fabric bands extending substantially around the entire external surface circumference of the metal tank ~~container~~, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank ~~container~~ and bonding the fabric to the outside metal surface with an adhesive, said carbon fibre fabric comprising carbon fibres predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank ~~container~~.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to Claim 15 in which the carbon fibre fabric comprises carbon fibres predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A metal tank ~~container~~ reinforced against seismic or paraseismic stresses, comprising a generally cylindrical tank ~~container~~ with a base, an external surface with a height from the base and longitudinal axis, said tank surrounded at least over part of its height with carbon fibre fabric passively bonded by adhesive to the external surface of the metal tank ~~container~~, said carbon fibre fabric being placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal tank external surface ~~container~~, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank ~~container~~, said carbon fibre fabric comprising carbon fibres that lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal tank ~~container~~.

18. **(Withdrawn)** A metal container according to Claim 17 in which the carbon fibre fabric comprises carbon fibres that lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container.